matter can Interact with atoms and molecules of matter, and even enter Into some sort of combination with them.

It Is worth noting that Benjamin Moore touched on similar possibilities in the little book quoted above, and thus gave anticipatory sanction to Gaskell's speculation. For example, he spoke of non-particulate material filling all space, the luminiferous ether, from which by the agency of energy, giving to it stable forms of motion, particles might be formed. £ Ordinary ponderable matter consists of solutions or suspensions In this continuous imponderable material/ And again : c The group of inert gases is conceivably a half-way stage between electrons and ordinary elements, requiring more electrons to be added on '. Again : ' There must be some precursor of matter which Is converted Into matter when It becomes Inhabited by energy. Such a precursor may well be the ether which has had to be postulated to account for the transmissions of energy which occur through vacua '. And : £ If It be supposed that ether is either non-particulate or made up of particles of an Infinitely lower size than electrons and devoid of energy, and that the electron is the first stage in the building up of matter . . ..' then ' given a highly enough concentrated source of energy, it Is readily seen that those forms of matter of lowest atomic weight may be formed out of the ether, energy disappearing as kinetic energy and appearing as potential energy'. And In view of the fact that the physicists' conception of the structure of

the atoms Is constantly changing, Is It not a plausible
assumption that patterns of aggregation other than the
atomic pattern (whatever that may eventually be agreed
to be) may be realized In systems that have a certain
stability and Individuality ?